



NZPUC · NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC

Plain Words

Church language, and what to say instead

None of these words are wrong. They are just ours. To someone who has never sat in one of our rooms they land as a closed door, and a closed door in the first ten seconds is the whole video gone.

Comment WORDS

1voice.nz

The swaps

Blessed	grateful, lucky, looked after
Fellowship	friends, people, a table, time together
Testimony	my story, what happened to me
Witness (verb)	talk about it, tell someone
Backslidden	drifted, walked away, stopped
Convicted	it got to me, I could not shake it
The Word	the Bible, this book
Quiet time	ten minutes on my own, reading in the morning
Walking with the Lord	trying to follow Jesus
Prayer warrior	someone who actually prays
Unsaved / lost	just say 'people', or use their name
Sabbath rest	one day a week where I stop
Discipleship	learning this properly, with other people
Outreach	meeting people, being useful
Anointed	really good at it, clearly made for it
Revival	something waking up
Fallen away	stopped coming
In the Word daily	reading it most days
Under the blood	forgiven
Sound doctrine	getting it right

The three that do the most damage

Lost and **unsaved** describe a person by what you think is wrong with them. Nobody has ever warmed to being described that way. Use their name or just say people.

Testimony sounds like a court. My story sounds like a person.

Blessed has been worn down to nothing by overuse. If you mean grateful, say grateful.

Words that are fine, keep them

Jesus. God. Prayer. Hope. Forgiveness. Grace, if you explain it once. These are not jargon, they are the subject. Cutting them to sound neutral makes a video about nothing.

The test

Read your script to someone who does not go to church and watch their face. The moment they go slightly blank, that is the word. There is always a plainer one.

Not sure who you are writing for? Picture one real person, and give them a name before you write a word.